

S-85  
Turpin's Purchase  
Manokin vicinity  
private

Mid to late eighteenth century

Located along the south shore of Back Creek facing an expansive cove is this two-story stuccoed brick dwelling scored to imitate large stone construction. Beltcourses and glazed brick patterns as well as remnants of mid eighteenth-century woodwork suggest this house was heavily reworked during the early nineteenth century when the property was held by Whitty Turpin Fontaine.

Through the 1794 will of John Mason Fontaine, Whitty along with his brothers and sisters inherited part of their uncle's land known as "Turpin's Purchase." Four years later Whitty was listed on the federal tax assessment as owning a 446-acre tract of land called, "Turpin's Purchase," which was improved by,

1 Dwelling house built of brick, 30 feet square, two stories high 6 windows 5 1/2 feet by 2 1/2 feet, 1 milk house 12 feet square, 1 kitchen 24 feet by 18 feet, the above buildings out of repair.

After the turn of the century Whitty evidently reworked his uncle's old house by applying a coat of stucco and introducing a center stair. The second floor remained less altered. Whitty Fontaine occupied the Back Creek plantation until the mid nineteenth century, when he bequeathed to his daughter, Margaret Hall, "my dwelling house." By 1877, a William H. Ross is designated as owner on the county atlas with 800 acres. Mary A. Ross acquired full interest in the property in 1892, and passed it to her son, Charles A. Lankford, in 1917.

S-85  
Whitty Fontaine house  
near Manokin  
Private

c. 1790-1798

Located along the south shore of Back Creek is the Whitty Fontaine house, a significant stuccoed brick dwelling scored to imitate ashlar construction. Belt courses divide the first and second floors, while the windows are filled with twelve over twelve or nine over nine sash windows. The floor plan has been altered with the relocation of the stair.

Through the 1794 will of John Mason Fontaine, Whitty Fontaine and his brothers and sisters inherited parts of their uncle's land known as "Turpin's Purchase" (EB 17/744). Four years later Whitty Fontaine was listed on the Federal Direct Tax Assessment as owning a 446-acre tract of land called "Turpin's Purchase" with,

1 Dwelling house built of brick, 30 feet square, two stories high,  
6 windows, 5½ feet by 2½ feet, 1 milk house 12 feet square, 1  
kitchen 24 feet by 18 feet, the above buildings out of repair  
--\$ 450.00

Whitty Fontaine occupied his Back Creek farm until the mid nineteenth century when in 1850 he left to his daughter, Margaret Hall, "my dwelling house" (JP 5/176). In 1877, a William H. Ross was designated on the county atlas as owning the house and 800 acres. Mary A. Ross acquired full interest in the property in 1892 and passed it to her son, Charles A. Lankford, in 1917 (73/58).

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-85

Magi No. 2000855204

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Whitty Fontaine House

and/or common Ochletree House

## 2. Location

street & number Farm Lane off Fountain Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Manokin ☒ vicinity of congressional district 1

state Maryland county Somerset

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles and Thelma Sheetz

street &amp; number 224 Homewood Terrace telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21218

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber

street &amp; number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

repository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

## 7. Description

Survey No. S-85

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Whitty Fontaine House (also known as the Ochletree House) is a c. 1790-1798 two-story three bay by two-room stuccoed brick house which stands on the south shore of Back Creek and west of Fountain Road; the nearest town being Manokin, Maryland.

Facing west, the two-story four-room plan house is covered by a medium sloped asphalt tile roof and rests on a minimal brick foundation. A coat of stucco covers most of the house and is struck to imitate ashlar construction. Belt courses divide the house between levels and are stuccoed as well. The west (or main facade) is divided into three evenly spaced bays with two 12/12 sash windows flanking a center entrance. The door has been replaced. Piercing the second floor are three 9/9 sash windows and stretching above the windows is a plain boxed cornice.

The south gable end is slightly asymmetrical with three openings on the first floor and two on the second. Two 12/12 sash windows and a back door are located on the first floor and two evenly spaced 9/9 sash windows pierce the second floor. The attic is lighted by two four-pane windows. Rising from the gable end is a chimney pile with a four-course corbelled cap.

The east facade is similarly detailed as the front with 12/12 sash windows on the first floor and 9/9 sash windows on the second.

The north gable end is partially covered by the modern addition. Despite the addition, a scar is visible which indicates the location and height of the earlier service wing. A twin chimney stack rises from this end.

The north end frame addition was attached within the last fifty years and consists largely of an old barn which was moved up to the house and joined to it by a short hyphen.

The interior has been significantly altered with the removal of most late 18th-century woodwork. A simple Federal period mantel survives in the south room, and a raised six-panel door opens to a closet below the stair.

On the second floor a c. 1790-1800 bedroom mantel survives in the southeast room. The stair to the attic appears to be rebuilt but is in its original location.

The attic space has never been finished and contains a common rafter roof system. The poplar rafters are hewn whereas the collar beams are sawn and fixed to the rafters with a half-dovetailed lap. A partially wrought nail holds <sup>each</sup> collar in place.

The only significant outbuilding is a pyramidal roofed dairy with pointed wooden spire. The interior has been covered with modern materials.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. S-85

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The c. 1790-1798 Whitty Fontaine House is a significant stuccoed brick dwelling with its early 12/12 and 9/9 sash windows surviving. <sup>after 1800</sup> Bel courses divide the scored stucco walls. The floor plan has been with a relocation of the stair. Much of the 18th-century woodwork has been removed. Attached to the north end is a small brick hyphen which connects the remodeled frame barn that was moved up to the house. The only significant outbuilding is a small frame dairy with pyramidal roof and wooden spire.

### History and Support

Through the 1794 will of John Mason Fontaine (E.B. 17/744), Whitty Fontaine and his brothers and sisters inherited parts of their uncle's land known as "Turpin's Purchase". Four years later Whitty was listed on the Federal Assessment as owning a 446 acre-tract of land called "Turpin's Purchase" with,

1 dwelling house built of brick, 30 feet  
square two storey high, 6 windows 5½ feet  
by 2½ feet, 1 milk house 12 feet square  
1 kitchen 24 feet by 18 feet the above  
buildings out of repair

\$450.00

Whitty Fontaine lived until the mid 19th century when, in his will, he left to his daughter Margaret Hall, "my dwelling house" (J P 5/176). By 1877, a William H. Ross is designated as owner and farmer with a total of 800 acres. (Lake, Griffing and Stevenson Atlas). Mary A. Ross acquired full interest in the property in 1892 and passed it to her son, Charles A. Lankford in 1917 (73/58).

Survey No. S-85

## PS-2746

CHAIN OF TITLE

Whitty Fontaine House  
(Ochletree House) S-85

G.J.B. 207/595	Alex. G. Jones and Catherine M. Jones
	to
3/15/1962	Charles H. Sheetz, Jr.
G. J. B. 207/591	Arthur L. Ochletree and Bonnie B. Ochletree
	to
12/26/1961	Alex. G. Jones
	200 acres
B.L.B. 127/22	Edgar A. Jones, trustee
	to
3/16/1944	Arthur and Bonnie Ochletree
	"whereon Mary A. Ross resided South side of
	Back Creek adjoining lands of Chas. M. and
	William Fontaine"
	240 acres
73/58	Mary A. Ross
	to
2/28 / 1917	Charles A. Lankford (son)
	First parcel of land described in a deed to the
	Somerset Mortgage and Certificates Corp.
	1. to Mary A. Ross by Charles F. W. Hall,
	George W. Tull and Sallie Tull--9/5/1892
	LW 14/29 \$ 5300.
	2. to Mary A. Ross by Alexander Bozman--7/22/1857
	O.T.B. 21/407 \$ 450.

Deed LW 14/29 refers to Will of Whitty Fontaine, Agriculturist--JP 5/176  
May 29, 1850 " I give to my daughter Margaret Hall my dwelling house..."

Will of John Mason Fontaine--E.B. 17/744---5/10/1794---bequeaths to his  
brother, William's children Whitty, Peggy, Henry, William, Hennyritta, and  
John Turpin Fontain his property.

S-85

1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment--Great Annemessex Hundred  
Particular List of Dwelling Houses-

Whitty Fontaine

1 Dwelling House built of brick, 30 feet square two story high,  
6 windows  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet by 3 feet, 9 windows  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet, 1 milk  
house 12 feet by 8 feet, 1 smoke house 10 feet square 1 kitchen  
24 feet by 18 feet, the above buildings out of repair \$ 450.

Particular List of Lands--

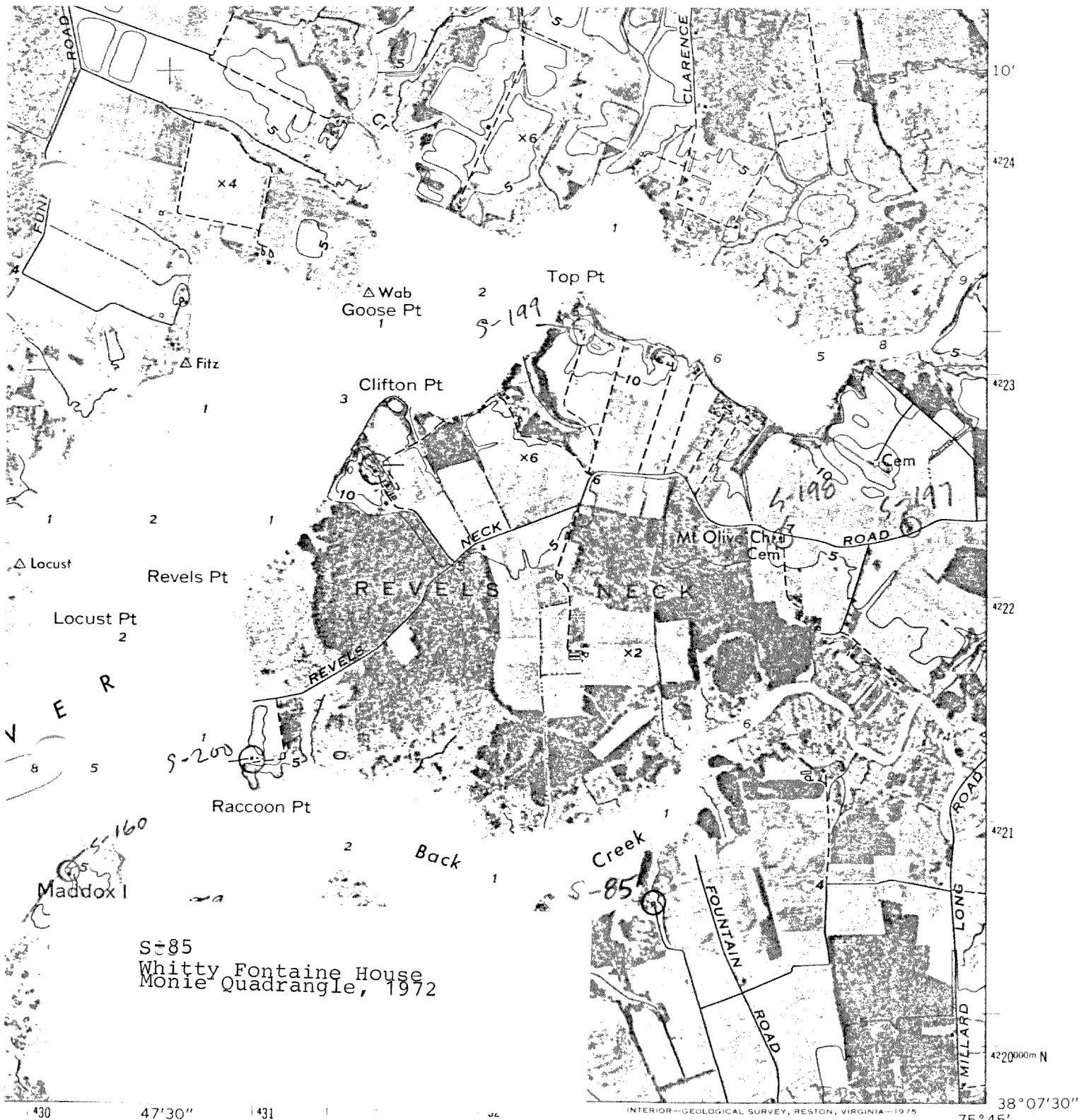
Whitty Fontaine

1 tract of land called Turpins Purchase  $446\frac{1}{4}$  acres on which are  
1 barn 32 feet by 40 feet, 1 granary 24 feet by 18 feet, 1 corn house  
20 feet by 7 feet \$ 1780.

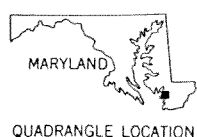
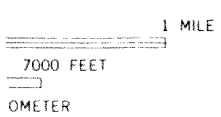


1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Somerset TOWN Manokin VICINITY STREET NO.  ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER Charles M. Fontaine PRESENT USE vacant WALL CONSTRUCTION brick NO. OF STORIES 2		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY S-85	
		2. NAME Ochletree House  DATE OR PERIOD 2nd half of 18th cen STYLE Georgian ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC NO <p>The Ochletree House is a large two story brick structure located near Manokin on the south side of Back Creek, a tributary of the Manokin River. The walls are covered with stucco and painted white. There is a stepped water table and a three-brick belt course around the house, as well as at attic level. The first story windows are now closed by shutters and the second story windows have 9/9 sash. Two small four-pane casements flank the chimney on each gable. The ridge of the "A" roof runs north-south. The center bay of each facade is a door. On the north side of the house is a hyphen and wing of twentieth century date and of no architectural merit.</p> <p>In many ways, the shell of this 18th century house resembles the main part of Kingston Hall, also in Somerset County.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered NO Interior Exterior poor			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)			
7. PHOTOGRAPH			
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourne Maryland Historical Trust  DATE OF RECORD June, 1972	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



S-85  
Whitty Fontaine House  
Monie Quadrangle, 1972



### ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Unimproved road
- Trails
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route

MONIE, MD.

N3807.5—W7545/7.5

1972



Whitty Fontaine House

S-85

(Ochletree House)

Near Manokin, Somerset County

West Elevation

11/83 Paul Touart

Neg./MD Historical Trust



Whitty Fontaine House

S-85

(Ochletree House)

Near Manokin, Somerset County

South Elevation

11/83 Paul Touart

Neg./MD Historical Trust



Whitty Fontaine House

S-85

(Ochletree House)

Near Manokin, Somerset County

North Gable end

11/83 Paul Touart

Neg./MD Historical Trust





Whitty Fontaine House  
(Ochletree House)  
Near Manokin, Somerset County  
Mantel  
11/83 Paul Touart  
Neg./MD Historical Trust

S-85



Whitty Fontaine House

S-85

(Ochletree House)

Near Manokin, Somerset County

Smoke House - Southeast Elev.

11/83 Paul Touart

Neg./MD Historical Trust